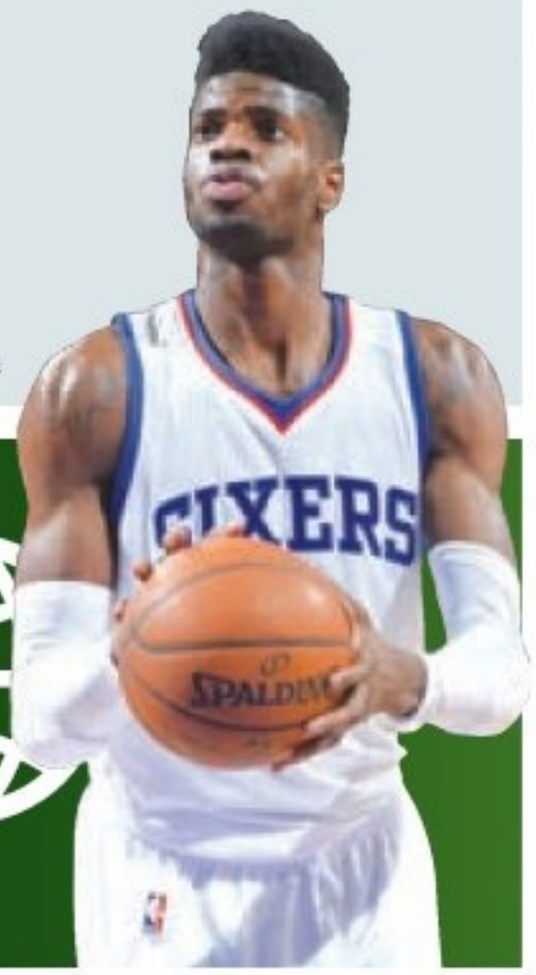
GRADING 76ERS AT THE BREAK

ARE THEY IMPROVING OR DO THEY JUST STINK? PAGES 30-31



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Hot date. The long wait is over, and the sexiest Hollywood film in forever, based on the steamy best-seller, is out. But is it hot enough? And double crap! Did they get rid of the terrible prose? PAGE 16

Dakota Johnson canoodles with Jamie Dornan in one of the more forward scenes in the film "Fifty Shades of Grey." / UNIVERSAL PICTURES, FOCUS FEATURES

Philly wins 2016 DNC, beating Brooklyn

PAGE 02

Is shooting death Philly's Ferguson?

PAGE 04

Celebrate 40 years of 'SNL' this weekend

PAGE 20

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1 NEWS

Top 3

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1 'Geek Girl in Hollywood: The problem with "kick-ass chicks"'

2 'Could Bruce Jenner be at fault for deadly car crash after all?'

3 'New York Fashion Week Fall 2015: More than just a pretty face'

On the go

Want to read Metro on your mobile device? Get the app! All you have to do is search for Metro US in the App Store or Google Play to get all the latest in news, sports, lifestyle and entertainment for free.

Philly chosen to host Democrats in 2016

USA. "Philly is your address," as Democrats pick city as place for party in 2016.

Former Gov. Ed Rendell, left, with Rocky impersonator Mike Kunda and mayor Michael Nutter (right) entertain a delegation from the Democratic National Committee in August while trying to woo the DNC to Philly. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Watch out, Philadelphia, the party's coming to town. The Democratic Party. that is.

The country's top Democratic politicos have settled on Philadelphia to host the 2016 Democratic Convention, bringing tourist dollars, booze-addled delegates and backroom cigar smoke to town.

With no local candidate and a lot lower prices, Philly clearly had an edge over rival contenders New York, Hillary Clinton's adopted hometown, and the flat farmlands of Columbus, Ohio.

On Thursday, the chair of the DNC, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, announced Philadelphia will host the 2016 Democratic National Convention the week of July 25, 2016. This is the first time Philly has hosted the party since 1948.

"Philadelphia will put our party's values of inclusion, equality and opportunity on display," Schultz said on a conference call which included Mayor Michael Nutter and former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, the state's unofficial booster-in-chief.

Philadelphia beat out New York City and Columbus, Ohio, based on logistics, security and resources, Schultz said.

GOP response

No sour grapes across the aisle. Joseph DeFelice, executive director of the Philadelphia Republican Party, said a convention of this magnitude is always good for the city.

Philadelphia had powerful allies in attracting the convention, which promises nearly a week of political pageantry, even if a nominee is likely to emerge from the primaries weeks ahead of the convention.

"Hardball" host Chris Matthews, a Philly native, wrote in the Washington Post that America's first capital was the natural choice for the convention.

"By gathering in iconic Philadelphia, Democrats could lay claim to not just the flag but what it stands for," Matthews wrote earlier this month.

He added: "A week there, sparkling with American values, could produce the kind of inspiring national convention we've missed in recent years."

Money also matters. Rendell said the hosting committee he sits on, Philadelphia 2016, promised to raise $84 million for the convention.

"We're confident we can raise that," Rendell said. "In fact, we were going to try to get a little cushion in case there are contingencies."

The committee started with $17 million; $5 million was placed into an escrow account and $12 million came from pledges.

And that was before Gov. Tom Wolf, the newly elected Democrat, said he would match what Gov. Tom Ridge donated to the 2000 Republican National Convention, the last convention held in Philadelphia.

"We put our heart and soul into this," said Nutter, who passed on making a bid for the 2012 DNC to fully prepare for 2016. Nutter mentioned the creation of Xfinity Live and the expansion of the Pennsylvania Convention Center as sweetening the offer.

The convention will take place only 10 months after Pope Francis visits Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families.

Meryl Levitz, president and CEO of Visit Philadelphia, said the city's tourism officials are working on how to redeploy staff to accommodate both hugely attended events.

"In 2000, we were the first convention to have an internet alley," Levitz said. "About 15,000 of our 45,000 visitors were media. So in 2016, we expect to have the first hugely expanded social media center."

SEPTA General Manager Joe Casey was involved in the pitch process, presenting transportation plans to Schultz and her team last August.

"We'll do whatever is necessary," said Casey, stating that hundreds of volunteers will be stationed on the streets, directing guests to transit and restaurants.

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Geopolitics

Council member may rescind Palestinian's award

City Councilwoman Maria Quinones-Sanchez deleted Facebook photos that show her presenting a citation to a Palestinian leader, after she learned of the woman's support for violence in Israel.

Quinones-Sanchez honored Laila Ghannam, district governor of Ramallah and an official of the Palestinian Authority, with a citation and a miniature Liberty Bell, during a ceremony last month in a mosque in Kensington.

But Palestinian Media Watch contacted the councilwoman with news reports in which Ghannam was quoted speaking in support of violence against Israelis, including civilians.

Quinones-Sanchez / PROVIDED

Quinones-Sanchez' office released a statement that they are now investigating "whether it is possible to withdraw" a citation.

"I fully and unequivocally denounce the sentiments attributed to Governor Ghannam ... and have consistently condemned terrorist violence," the statement said.

Quinones-Sanchez said she honored Ghannam for what she had been informed was humanitarian work "centered on furthering the achievements of women and girls."

"As an elected official who represents a significant Muslim-American population, including many Palestinian refugee families, I know my Muslim constituents to be good citizens and contributors to their communities," the statement continued. SAM NEWHOUSE

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Is man's death Philly's Ferguson?

Answers. "Philly After Ferguson" meet turns into debate over death of Brandon Tate-Brown.

A public meeting on community-police relations gave frustrated Philadelphians a forum to express their anger over the December killing of a black man by cops, which is still an open wound for many.

"We want justice," said Tanya Brown-Dickerson, mother of 26-year-old Brandon Tate-Brown, who was killed by police Dec. 15. "In Ferguson and New York, those people know the face and name of who killed their loved ones. And I have the right to know too."

The Philly After Ferguson town hall, which was held at Catalyst for Change Church on Wednesday, was intended to discuss "policing, politics and perceptions" in the post-Ferguson era.

But many in the crowd took the meeting as an opportunity to question the panel, which included Deputy Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel and SEPTA Police Chief Thomas Nestel, about Tate-Brown's death.

Several repeatedly asked the name of the 15th District officer who fatally shot Tate-Brown, and requested the release of surveillance video that they believe shows Tate-Brown's encounter with officers.

"They completely evaded the questions," said Megan Malachi, 33, a member of Action Against Black Genocide, who called the meeting in general "a farce to placate the public."

Police said after Tate-Brown's car was stopped by police Dec. 15, he allegedly scuffled with officers and ran for an illegal gun inside his car when officers fatally shot him.

Marchers protest the Ferguson grand jury's decision not to indict the officer who killed Michael Brown on Nov. 25. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Quoted

"I'm hoping for new protocols, new rules, new ways of detaining your offender. You don't have to kill them."

Brown-Dickerson

Tate-Brown's mother denied that he would initiate violence with police.

"I don't care what they say. You can't turn him into a monster," she said.

According to police, the identity of the officer involved in the shooting and surveillance footage can't be released while Tate-Brown's death remains under investigation.

"For that woman to stand up and say, 'I have no recourse for my child's death' — that's so tragic," said Catalyst's pastor, Keon Gerow, of Brown-Dickerson. "You can only hope that justice is served."

Brown-Dickerson has no such hope, but did say the meeting sent a message.

"The activists and organizations made it quite clear that we are serious, it is not going away," she said. "I'm fighting until I get [an indictment]."

Chris Norris, the local writer who organized the town hall, said the goal was to help community members meet people in power and learn how to contact them with their complaints. In that respect, it was a success, he said.

"You don't solve this in one day," Norris said.

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Unsolved

Brandon Tate-Brown

Tate-Brown was killed by 15th District police officers after a traffic stop around 2:45 a.m. on Dec. 15 in Frankford, on the 6700 block of Frankford Ave.

Police say they saw a gun in the car. After Tate-Brown fought the officers, he then ran for the gun when they shot him. The fatality is under investigation.

But Brown-Dickerson is convinced there's more to the story. She wants to see surveillance video from nearby stores. "They would have already put video out to humiliate me and shut me up if my son was wrong and it was the way they say it was," she said.

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College.

Bryn Mawr now open to transgender students

Historic all-women Bryn Mawr College has acceded to a demand by students that it accept transgender male-to-female students as well as female students.

"Inherent in the Board's decision is the awareness that gender is fluid and that traditional notions of gender identity and expression can be limiting," college president Kim Cassidy wrote in a note to students.

"We recognize that students may express new gender identities while at Bryn Mawr and beyond," Cassidy continued. "Our women-centered focus is not intended to exclude any members of this special community."

"In addition to those applicants who were assigned female at birth, the applicant pool will be inclusive of transwomen and of intersex individuals who live and identify as women," the college said in a statement this week.

Bryn Mawr is the fourth women's college to clarify its admissions stance toward transgender students, joining Simmons, Mount Holyoke, and Mills Colleges.

The changes take effect in fall. METRO

Bryn Mawr / GOOGLE MAPS

Quoted

"We recognize that students may express new gender identities while at Bryn Mawr and beyond."

Cassidy

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Restaurant worker Jason McCarthey supports the bill.
CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Sick leave bill signed by Nutter to aid workers

Healthy city.

Mayor Nutter signs mandatory sick leave law on third attempt.

Paid sick leave for Philadelphia workers is on its way.

Mayor Michael Nutter signed the bill into law Thursday afternoon.

A bill to mandate that Philly businesses provide employees paid sick days passed City Council today after a 14-2 vote.

The Council last passed sick-leave bills in 2011 and 2013. Nutter vetoed those bills, saying he was concerned they could dent a slow economic recovery.

Nutter changed his mind last year after a panel he convened recommended in December companies provide paid sick leave.

Councilman Bill Greenlee sponsored the bill, which guarantees workers one hour of paid sick leave for every 40-hour week worked, or about five days a year.

Only businesses with 10 or more employees.

Greenlee said the bill would help many of the 200,000 Philadelphians, or about 40 percent of the city's workforce, who don't receive paid sick leave.

The law will take effect in 90 days.

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West Philly

Toddler killed by trolley when he ran out in the street

A 2-year-old boy died after colliding with a 10 trolley on Thursday afternoon.

The child ran out into the street near 51st Street and Lancaster Avenue, and was hit by the trolley heading west around 1 p.m., the Inquirer reported, based on a preliminary police investigation.

A SEPTA #11 trolley
METRO FILE PHOTO

The child was trapped under the trolley and pronounced dead at 1:48 p.m.

The child was with his family, who had reportedly recently moved to the neighborhood, before the incident occurred, West Philly Local reported.

SEPTA pulled surveillance camera video from the trolley and provided to the Philadelphia Police Department's Accident Investigation Division, said SEPTA spokeswoman Jerri Williams.

"SEPTA believes this is a tragic accident," Williams said. "Our hearts and prayers go out to the family and community."

METRO

A self-portrait by artist Douglas Ferrin / DOUGLASFERRIN.COM

Painter convicted of blowing off own hand

Artistic. An artist with a history of blowing stuff up was convicted Thursday.

Douglas Ferrin, 55, was convicted Thursday on charges of using "weapons of mass destruction" for accidentally blowing his own hand off last year.

Ferrin, a realist oil painter whose work was once featured in a Society Hill gallery, reportedly was tinkering with an explosive device at his Germantown home around 4 a.m. on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, when the device exploded.

Ferrin reportedly has mental health issues and a fondness for explosives. He served six months in prison for dropping an M-80 firecracker in a Chesco pub men's room toilet in 2011, according to an interview with "The Art Room" blog.

Ferrin's hand injury was reportedly treated at Albert Einstein Medical Center after the explosion.

The Inquirer reported that Ferrin's defense attorney, AJ Thomson, argued that the weapon of mass destruction charge should not apply to incidents like this one where the explosive only hurt the defendant and was contained within his home.

Ferrin could face 12 to 18 months in prison.

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Blowing stuff up

After a jail stint for the 2011 Phoenixville bombing, Ferrin said in an interview with "The Art Room" blog, "Don't go to jail."

- "Almost everyone I met while in jail was there for the same reason that I was: getting drunk and doing something stupid," he said. "I myself blew up a toilet with an M-80. No one was hurt, or even close to being, but I spent six months in a medium security lockup for my idiotic crime."

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Thugs came by bike, left with Cadillac

Nightmare. A South Jersey neighborhood is alarmed by brutal home invasion.

Suspects / PROVIDED

A South Jersey neighborhood remains on edge after a weekend home invasion left a senior citizen beaten — and without his Cadillac or cash.

Cops have released mugshots of the two perps, who showed up at the 64-year-old victim's home on Chief Massasoit Road in Medford, New Jersey, on bicycles.

They bound the victim with tape, and reportedly hit him with a pipe. He was later taken to the hospital and was expected to recover from his injuries.

Police provided these descriptions of the men being sought:

No. 1: A 50- to 60-year-old black male, 5-foot-10 to 6-feet, 150 to 175 pounds. He has dark skin, dark-brown eyes, a salt-and-pepper mustache, and is possibly missing teeth. He was wearing a black hoodie, black winter jacket, black pants, light-color sneakers, winter gloves and a knit watch cap on his head.

No. 2: A 30- to 35-year-old black male, 5-foot-8 to 5-foot-10, 200 to 225 pounds. He has light skin, a black beard and dark-brown eyes. He was wearing a navy blue winter jacket, black pants, winter gloves and a watch cap on his head.

The two left their bicycles behind.

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Powerball. Sorry, but you didn't win $564M

Three lucky ticketholders in North Carolina, Texas and Puerto Rico won the $564.1 million Powerball lottery jackpot on Wednesday.

The jackpot, which reached the half-billion dollar mark after rolling over for nearly three months, was the third-largest in the game's history and one of the largest lottery jackpots ever in the U.S. The three gamblers can select a lump-sum cash payout or opt to take annuity payments over 29 years, before taxes. The winning numbers from the draw were 11, 13, 25, 39 and 54, lottery officials said, and the Powerball number was 19.

"Looks like we have a jackpot winner in Texas tonight!" the Texas Lottery tweeted.

The last winner, a Washington woman, told lottery officials she purchased the winning $90 million ticket on Thanksgiving Day and had never bought a Powerball before.

JOHN A. OSWALD

Chester County

Second rape reported at local college

For the second time in three weeks, cops are investigating an alleged rape at West Chester University.

The latest incident happened this past Sunday in on-campus housing. The other, three weeks ago, Jan. 21, also occurred on a Sunday and also happened at a campus apartment in West Chester, Pa.

Both alleged victims told police they knew their attackers. The victim in this past Sunday's case is reportedly not cooperating with cops, according to Philly.com. METRO

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Obama to announce executive order on cybersecurity data

Safe. Tech companies and startups have been beefing up encryption in the wake of Edward Snowden's leaks.

Cybersecurity industry veterans said Obama's anticipated order would be only a modest step in one of the president's priorities — defending companies from attacks like those on Sony and Anthem. / GETTY IMAGES

President Barack Obama is expected to announce an executive order directing the government and companies to share more information about cybersecurity threats in response to attacks like that on Sony Entertainment.

As in other policy areas where Obama has been unable to get legislation through the now Republican-controlled Congress, the White House is turning to more limited administrative actions to advance its agenda as much as it can.

The move comes as big Silicon Valley companies prove hesitant to fully support more mandated cybersecurity information sharing without reforms to government surveillance practices exposed by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden.

"We are certainly hearing that an executive order may be announced," Nuala O'Connor, president of the technology lobbying group Center for Democracy & Technology, said as she boarded a plane en route to the event.

A government center for cybersecurity, announced earlier this week by Obama's top homeland security adviser, could play a role in the process. But the Stanford attendees said they did not have details.

Administration officials have said they would prefer legislation that would require more information sharing and limit any legal liability for companies that share too much. They have said that an executive order could not limit liability.

But getting anything through Congress on the subject has proven a daunting task. That is unlikely to get much better without at least the support of big Silicon Valley companies.

Those companies, however, have refused to give full-throated support to cybersecurity bills without some reform of surveillance practices exposed by Snowden that have hurt U.S. technology companies' efforts to win business in other countries. REUTERS

Records

80M

Anthem, the No. 2 U.S. health insurer, last week disclosed a massive breach of its database containing nearly 80 million records.

Los Angeles

Police officer shoots boy, 15, after seeing replica gun

Los Angeles police Thursday were investigating the shooting of a 15-year-old boy who was shot and wounded by a police officer. The cop saw a person next to the teenager pointing what turned out to be a replica gun, police said.

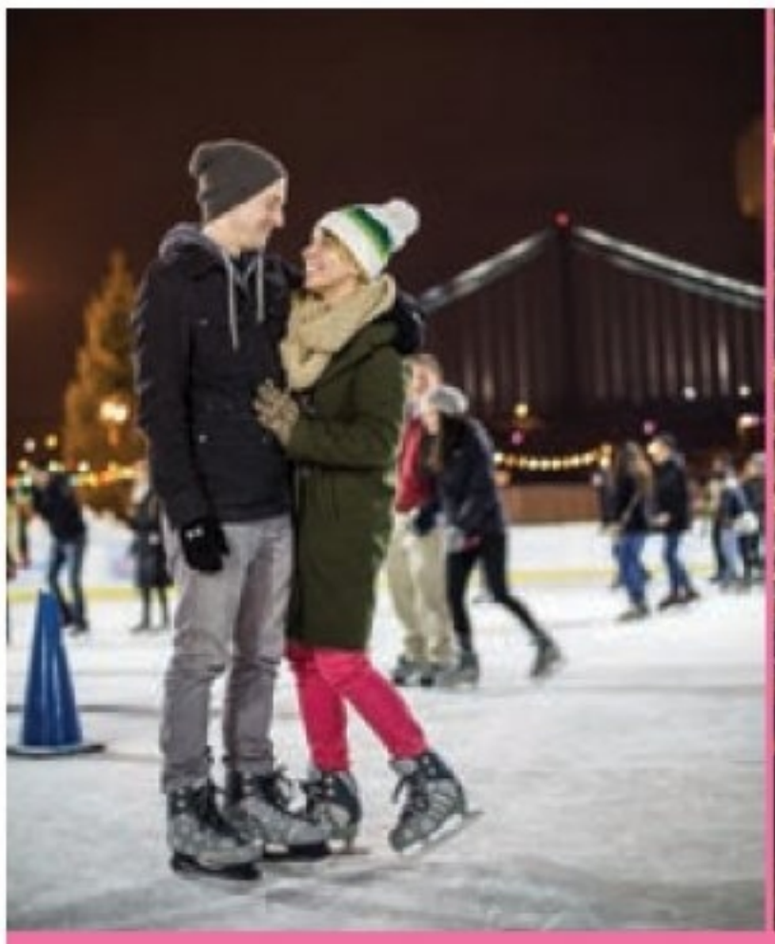
The Los Angeles police department said officers from a gang homicide unit had been conducting a follow-up investigation on Tuesday when they encountered several people, including one carrying what appeared to be a gun.

"Officers saw that individual pointing the firearm at another individual," a police statement said. "Officers ordered him to drop the weapon multiple times. The individual ignored the officer's commands and an officer-involved shooting occurred."

The 15-year-old was shot once in the upper back, while the person who had been holding the replica was not injured. The wounded boy was treated at a local hospital and released to his mother after the incident in a south Los Angeles alley, police said. No arrests have been made. REUTERS

Quoted

"Further investigation revealed that the weapon being used was a replica firearm, which has been booked as evidence." Police



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Two decades. Celebrating 20 years of Metro, the largest global paper

THE COVER OF METRO BRAZIL AFTER BRAZIL'S HUMILIATING DEFEAT TO GERMANY IN THE WORLD CUP

On Feb. 13, 1995, Metro launched its first ever free newspaper edition in Stockholm. Twenty years on, the newspaper has expanded across the globe to become the world's largest global newspaper with over 20 million readers. Sakari Pitkänen, a former long-time employee of Metro, who since the mid-1990s served as editor of Metro Stockholm and then global editor-in-chief of Metro International, tells us the success story.

Sakari Pitkänen / METRO

Quoted

"While we made many enemies, we still have made 20 million friends — our readers across the world. I'd rather have readers as friends, I couldn't care else about anyone else."

At the time did you ever envision the paper becoming the global player it is today?
Personally, I was too busy with getting Metro Stockholm off its feet! But certainly, the founders of the newspaper did have plans for an international expansion early on.

In an ever-changing media landscape, what has made Metro stand out for two decades?
Being free of charge, certainly. Pay-for newspapers across Europe were and are in decline, so it was very difficult for them to compete with Metro. With the advent of the Internet age, we were the first organization to say that news is a commodity that you could get for free.

Another key factor that has helped Metro has been the role of big cities. All over the world, cities have continued to expand and the new influx of people tend not to have a relationship with an established, traditional newspaper. That's where Metro came in. What's more, unlike old newspapers, we followed the needs of the modern reader. We recognized that the reader now is much younger and more female. We felt we were geniuses!

To coincide with the 20th anniversary, you have written a book on the history of the newspaper. The book title is a curious one: "The art of making enemies in the whole world." Is this what Metro has been about?
Certainly in the first 10 years since we launched, wherever we started a new Metro edition, we were met with fierce resistance, from lawyers, from industrial action — even bikers were blocking our advertising in the U.S. I recall what our CEO in the early 2000s, Pelle Törnberg, said — and I am paraphrasing here: "If you want powerful enemies and a bad reputation, start a newspaper. If you want powerful enemies all over the world and need massive bad press everywhere, start a global newspaper." ANTHONY JOHNSTON, METRO WORLD NEWS

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Backlash

Story 'rebrands violence as romance'

The social media campaign #50Dollars-Not50Shades is asking people to donate $50 to a domestic violence shelter rather than going to see the "Fifty Shades" movie to help "victims of abusive relationships like the one glamorized in the 'Fifty Shades' series," the campaign's Facebook page reads.

The hashtag's creator, Gail Dines, sums up the story as "a naive, vulnerable, immature woman" trying to change "a sexual sadist by showering him with love."

That scenario tends to play out differently in the real world.

"Women and girls need to know that should they meet a real Christian Grey, the end of that story will be them running for their lives, not living happily ever after."

DMITRY BELYAEV

Our complicated relationship with 'Fifty Shades'

BDSM. For good, and naughty, the 'Fifty Shades effect' is real.

Since its publication in June 2011, "Fifty Shades of Grey" has had an undeniable impact far beyond the book world. The BDSM-inclined Christian Grey and his steamy seduction of Anastasia Steele brought S&M experimentation into the mainstream. But besides increases of handcuff incidents and rope sales, the books have exposed a niche side of sex — for better and worse — creating what's been dubbed "the Fifty Shades of Grey effect."

From sex shop to 'love store'

When Laurent Steeg co-founded Passage du Désir in 2006, he wanted to offer a softer version of the sex shop experience. "The idea behind this project is to take away the guilt and shame," he says.

With 60 percent of their clients being women, Passage co-founder Patrick Prapant says the books have boosted sales of several items — specifically woman-focused products. "We saw a massive increase of sales of Geisha balls, an item Anastasia tries in the novel," he says.

Sex and society

Psychoanalyst and sexologist Catherine Blanc doesn't see the missionary position being replaced in the majority of people's sex lives. Blanc says our fantasies now are pretty much in line with what humans have always thought about and practiced. "People's fantasies aren't more extravagant than they have always been," she says. "Domination, possession, submission are traditional elements of human sexuality." But trends are not for everyone. "Some young ladies mistake what they want and what they want to want because society tells them to," she says. "They are afraid to look [uptight]."

ELODIE NOEL
@metronewyork
letters@metro.us

The sexcapades of Anastasia Steele and Christian Grey have led to a boom in the sex toy and bondage business. / GETTY IMAGES

By the numbers

A survey of more than 1,000 Passage du Désir customers yielded these results:

- 23% use massage oil
- 14% own a sex toy
- 43% of sex toy owners use it with their partner
- 32% use it alone
- 77% of people who use "accessories" find their sex life has improved
- 55% have heard of "Fifty Shades of Grey"
- 8% say the books had an influence on their sex lives

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Does 'Fifty Shades' fall limp?

Perhaps it seemed E.L. James' über-best-seller was too hot for the movies. And yet here it is anyway. But does the film actually have some merit? Are its sex scenes a letdown? What didn't make the cut? We investigate. **MATT PRIGGE**

UNIVERSAL PICTURES, FOCUS FEATURES

Pros & cons

CON: Jamie Dornan, who plays alpha-shark billionaire Christian Grey, is pretty weak, although no actor could sell the line "I'm 50 shades of f—ed up."

PRO: Dakota Johnson, however, is very funny. Her Anastasia may seem deer-in-headlights, but she turns nervousness into killer deadpan line readings.

CON: The sex is, shall we say, flaccid. Not only that, it's in such small portions. Sorry, there's no geisha balls set piece.

PRO: Whittling down the BDSM to a nub means having to engage less in the book's questionable antics, not the least its misrepresentation of BDSM.

CON: The film had to remain faithful, and try as she might, director Sam Taylor-Johnson ("Nowhere Boy") can only transcend the florid passages so much.

PRO: Entirely gone is the book's biggest liability: that prose. Author E.L. James seems to only know 30 words, and two of them are "genital clamps."

CON: It's sill mommy-porn fantasy that offers a watered-down and troubling look at someone submitting to the whims of a studly man.

PRO: It's more turned on by their banter than their sex. This isn't Clint Eastwood's heroic saving of "The Bridges of Madison County," but it'll do.

Book vs. movie

What's missing?

For starters, no narration tracks means none of Anastasia's first-person musings, including clunkers like, "I work on my essay on 'Tess of the d'Urbervilles.' Damn, that woman was in the wrong place at the wrong time in the wrong century."

Jose, her friend who drunkenly makes a pass at Anastasia (but is stopped by Christian), disappears after his low point.

Most of the sex scenes are diluted or excised entirely. The tampon scene? Only in your dreams.

The novel's excessive wealth porn is still present but slightly eased. Where the novel freaked out every time Christian had her bumped up to first class, the film never once mentions this.

The book's accidental topicality — a discussion about an outbreak of measles and those pesky anti-vaccine idiots when Anastasia has dinner with Christian's parents — is sadly AWOL.

Origins. What's this about 'Twilight'?

If some of the plot twists and atmosphere of "Fifty Shades of Grey" seem familiar, that's because the book and film have their roots in another breakout literary success that doesn't get a ton of respect: Stephenie Meyer's "Twilight" series. In fact, E.L. James' best-seller was originally conceived as "Twilight" fan-fiction — spin-off tales created by readers that reimagine their favorite characters in different situations or romantic entanglements.

So how similar is "Fifty Shades of Grey" to "Twilight"? Well, replace Sleepy Forks, Washington, with bustling Seattle, swap out high school for grad school and change vampirism to sadomasochism, and there you go. **NED EHRBAR**

Visit **Metro.us** to see adult film stars like Ron Jeremy read excerpts from "Fifty Shades."

The past. Other mega-sellers made into films

'Gone with the Wind,' by Margaret Mitchell (1936)
Copies sold: 30 million
Movie year: 1939

A doorstop became an appropriately oversize epic, and a handsome one. Every single shot in its nearly four hours is a doozy.

'Lolita,' by Vladimir Nabokov (1955)
Copies sold: 50 million
Movie year: 1961

One of lit's greatest masterworks sold because of its raciness. A movie was a no-brainer, but in 1961, director Stanley Kubrick couldn't even imply it was about pedophilia.

'Valley of the Dolls,' by Jacqueline Susann (1966)
Copies sold: 30 million
Movie year: 1967

It took a year for this trash opus to become a trash blockbuster. Three years later the studio that owned it mocked it with "Beyond the Valley of the Dolls."

ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

'The Bridges of Madison County,' by Robert James Waller (1992)
Copies sold: 50 million
Movie year: 1995

Clint Eastwood's film of the worst novel ever written took a piece of cheesecake and made it into a beautifully understated adult romance.

2 CULTURE

Stay home

Steamy streaming sex

The "Fifty Shades" film is surprisingly skimpy on salaciousness. These naughtier films are all currently streaming:

'Basic Instinct'

(Netflix Instant)
This is still pretty shocking, and the unrated cut on Netflix makes the big bonking centerpiece even longer, with Michael Douglas spending more time downtown — the kind of thing that still, amazingly, gets movies slapped with an NC-17.

'In the Realm of the Senses'

(Hulu)
Even in the book, Anastasia and Christian come nowhere near the couple in this scandalous Japanese art film from 1976, which features real, endless sex, with one hell of a capper.

'The Night Porter'

(Hulu)
Charlotte Rampling and Dirk Bogarde aren't just into BDSM in this 1973 shocker: She's a former concentration camp prisoner and he's her Nazi lover, who run into each other years later and pick things up again. Whee!

'I am Curious (Yellow)'

(Hulu)
This Swedish quasi-doc on its youth culture was a big hit in America in 1967. Why? Because it was frank about sex. In fact, it was the first mainstream film to include male frontal nudity.

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Review

'The Rewrite'

●●○○○

It's too easy to slam a movie about screenwriting for its lazy, cliched script, one that largely relies on the charm of its overqualified cast to carry it through. Lightweight semi-satires like "The Rewrite" have a certain comfort food charm, even when they turn rancid well before completion. Hugh Grant plays a washed-up author of an Oscar-winning classic, who grouchily accepts a position at an East Coast school. There he peoples his class with hotties with whom he can confer after school. That his hesitant romance with an older student (Marisa Tomei, reliably glowing) remains hesitant would count as a novel twist on the formula if it didn't clearly find the idea of Grant banging someone only four years his junior icky. In lovable cad mode, Grant is fun without trying, though, as here, it's a type that should never be forced into redemption. **MP**

Marisa Tomei doesn't quite romance Hugh Grant in "The Rewrite." RLJ/IMAGE ENTERTAINMENT

Action. 'Kingsman' is a cartoonishly violent American espionage romp, but from England

Colin Firth teaches Taron Egerton how to become a gentlemanly killer for the government in "Kingsman: The Secret Service." / JAAP BUITENDIJK

Reuniting with "Kick-Ass" graphic novelist Mark Millar, director Matthew Vaughn makes a suitably over-the-top film out of Millar's "The Secret Service," with Colin Firth as a dangerous but debonair gentleman agent who recruits a low income kid (Taron Egerton) into his elite outfit to battle a dangerous billionaire (Samuel L. Jackson).

The lowdown: Vaughn's veddy English spy romp is like a brighter, cheekier Frank Miller: an equal opportunity offender that lobs countless cultural grenades — not because it's angry, as the terminally frothing Miller is, but just because it felt like it. It's the cat perched next to the spilled milk. The far right will love that it lampoons Islamic terrorists, global warming and Obama, but lose their heads when the film's splashiest set piece takes place in a homophobic, racist, anti-Semitic Deep South church. Trying to put a finger on what it's saying is pointless; it simply wants to upset everyone, just for kicks.

Is "Kingsman" parodying old school Bond or reasserting the franchise's classist, Old Britannia leanings? Truth is, "Kingsman" just doesn't care. It's a goof, a lark, a bit of silliness that blends dry English wit and reticence into a melange of American blockbuster explosions and cool killings. It's an alternate universe Bond movie that arrives in an age when the series has gone dark and realistic. It's a movie for teenage boys if there ever was one, which is to say it's also powerfully sexless, right up to an ending that would titillate only a 14-year-old. **MATT PRIGGE**

Review

'Kingsman: The Secret Service'

Director: Matthew Vaughn

Stars: Taron Egerton, Colin Firth

Rating: R

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40 years of 'Live from New York'

For a program based on the brevity of sketch comedy, "Saturday Night Live" has been on for a long time — 40 years, to be exact. The show stayed relevant over the years thanks to performers who shaped the world of comedy. Here are the stars we think were the biggest influences on pop culture, decade by decade.

LISA WEIDENFELD

Catch the show's 40th anniversary special this Sunday at 8 p.m. on NBC. / ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF NBC

The '70s

Bill Murray

Early casts were stacked with future stars, from Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi to Jane Curtin and Chevy Chase. While we'd like to pick Sen. Al Franken because his career took the oddest turn, we're picking Bill Murray, who dominated the box office in the '80s with "Ghostbusters" and more, then began a late career renaissance as a dramatic actor who rewrote the book on post-"SNL" careers.

The '80s

Eddie Murphy

It may be hard to remember, given the "Norbit" and "Daddy Day Care" years, but in the '80s Murphy was one of the sharpest comics around, covering racial issues in Reagan-era America, which was not a time known for its progressive politics. Though he hasn't returned to the show since the '80s, he's set to make an appearance for the big 40th anniversary special.

The '90s

Will Ferrell

While fellow '90s alum Mike Myers had a fairly unstoppable streak of hits, it's Ferrell's charming goofball style that has remained part of the comedy world. And it's hard to imagine any other actor from the show making quite the splash that Ferrell did with his George W. Bush impression, which was so popular that he brought it back during the 2008 election.

The '00s

Tina Fey

Remember when "Saturday Night Live" became all about the women? Along with being the show's first female head writer, Fey ushered in an era of women dominating the show, a trend that continued with Kristen Wiig and on to current star Kate McKinnon. Oh, and Fey also took the time to write the preeminent teen comedy of the decade, "Mean Girls."

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THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

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Uma Thurman speaks out about her new look

So yeah, those photos of Uma Thurman on the red carpet earlier this week that got so much attention? She heard what you've been saying about them. Thurman stopped by the "Today" show for a chat and inevitably the online uproar around her new look came up. "I look weird," Thurman admits. "I guess nobody liked my makeup. I mean, I've been doing this for years and years and years, and people say nice things and they say mean things, and it's just like, whatever!" And she admits she'll likely not be rocking that shocking red carpet look again. "We saw how well the dark lipstick worked the other night," she joked.

Daily video

Conan O'Brien visits a Korean spa

Who doesn't love a good day of personal pampering? Conan O'Brien heads to L.A.'s Koreatown for a supposedly relaxing visit to a spa, which turns out to be possibly the most awkward, late-night ,talk show segment of all time.

TEAM COCO / YOUTUBE

And he's not going it alone. He brought along "The Walking Dead" star Steven Yeun as backup, and neither of them are super-excited about the expected public nudity. But their pain is your enjoyment, so sit back and relax.

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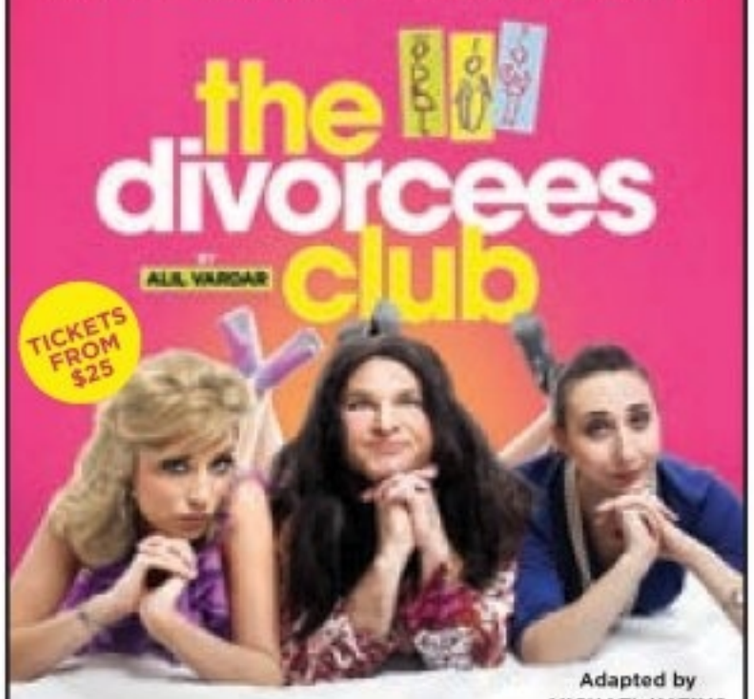

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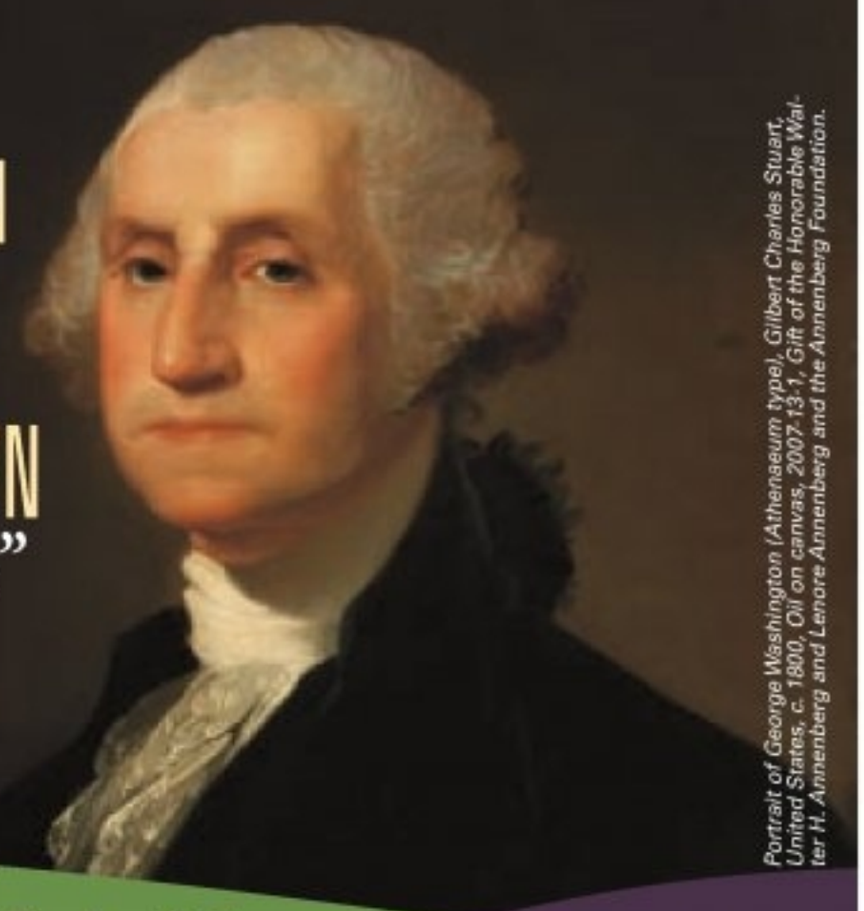

Portrait of George Washington (Athenaeum type), Gilbert Charles Stuart, United States, c. 1800, Oil on canvas, 2007-13-1, Gift of the Honorable Walter H. Annenberg and Lenore Annenberg and the Annenberg Foundation.

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MATTHEW DINARO

Moving the

If big tattoos like these aren't for you, "it's Valentine's Day ... get a little heart," Timpel says. / BILL DEMICHELLE

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Ink. Get tatted up — or just gawk — at the 17th annual tattoo convention.

Have troubling tattoo TV shows like "Tattoo Nightmares" and "America's Worst Tattoo" scared off legions of potential customers?

Not in the least, says Troy Timpel, a Philly tattoo artist and promoter of this weekend's Philadelphia Tattoo Arts Convention.

"A lot of people that got bad tattoos now realize their options in fixing them," Timpel says. "People make poor choices in artists, but they can be fixed and still be beautiful."

For those who want to embrace the bad ink, stars of "Tattoo Nightmares" and the rest will be at the convention. But not everyone has a horror story — the crews from "Ink Master," "Black Ink Crew," "Best Ink" and more will be there, too.

Tattoo parlors have replaced Jersey as reality TV's location du jour. "The TV shows allow people to see the quality of tattooing that can be done," says Timpel, owner of Philadelphia Eddie's at 621 S. Fourth St. "The public didn't quite understand tattoos and what could be done, but seeing these fantastic artists gives [them] an idea of the potential."

It's all at the Pennsylvania Convention Center Friday through Sunday. In addition to the TV celebs, there will be sideshow artists, Jersey's Gisella Rose, aka the Human Pincushion, as well as burlesque performers, aerial artists and more. As for tattoos, more than 900 artists will be on hand to serve the expected 20,000 attendees. There are also after-parties Friday and Saturday at the nearby Trocadero and Sunday at the Barbary in Fishtown.

CHRIS JORDAN
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Whose likeness would you get tattooed? / RESYN THOMAS

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Two best friends plan the perfect Valentine's Day

Creativity. There are many ways to show that you care.

This isn't the real-life story of "When Harry Met Sally."

Two years ago, best friends Jessica Walsh and Timothy Goodman decided to embark on a little experiment: After years of frustrating dates and being single in New York City, the pair wondered what would happen if they dated each other for 40 days. The result was the popular blog (and now book) "40 days of Dating: An Experiment."

While Walsh and Goodman didn't make it as a couple, they assure us that they are still closer than ever, despite the fact that Walsh got married to someone else a few months ago. "We're best friends and we're creative partners," Goodman says.

These two friends wanted to see what would happen if they became a couple. / PROVIDED

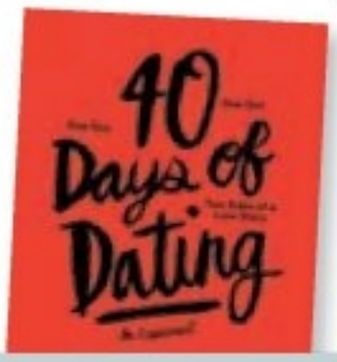
"We really hadn't anticipated all the press and Hollywood attention, said Tim, "We really just wanted to wrap ourselves in the context of today's dating culture."

One of the many things that the now former couple has in common is an artistic sensibility. Both Walsh and Goodman are graphic designers and incorporated their photos and texts into the book.

We asked them how they would spend the perfect Valentine's Day.

Have a theme

"Sometimes it's fun to keep it themed, and I like to hop around because it's fun and makes the night a little more memorable," says Goodman. "You have to allow for the unexpected and you have to allow for serendipity in the city because it's kind of at your disposal if you open your eyes."



Get creative

"Anything you make by hand, and anything that comes from the heart, I think is so special. I think it's a real tragedy that too many men don't know how to tap into their imagination," says Goodman. "Even just writing a little note to someone makes them feel like you spent a little time on it."

MEGHAN POOLE
@MetroPhilly
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Date idea

Go for a ride

Since Valentine's Day falls on a Saturday this year, it's the perfect opportunity to take a mini day trip. Why not get out of the city for a few hours and enjoy nature or explore somewhere new? Walsh says the more unexpected the destination, the more memorable the weekend will be.

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*National Research Council. (2003) Elder mistreatment: Abuse, neglect and exploitation in an aging America. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press

Gifts. People want something from the heart for Valentine's Day

A romantic dinner can be the most meaningful gift of all. / ISTOCK

A new survey commissioned by the jewelry research chain WP Diamonds provides a revealing look at what couples really want.

It turns out that under 20 percent of Americans say material gifts are the most important part of Valentine's Day. The vast majority (86 percent) of those questioned said they valued romance, sex and passion.

It also looks like Americans today are increasingly valuing having great experiences over receiving nice things. A romantic evening out on the town was the top choice for a gift this Valentine's Day — even beating out an evening of passionate sex.

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Prepping for NYFW with Rachel Zoe

The celebrity stylist turned designer is all set for showtime at New York Fashion Week. The 43-year-old takes us through her upcoming collection, beauty must-haves and why NYC is what makes her tick. **ELODIE NOEL**

How do you get ready for Fashion Month?
Once New York Fashion Week starts, my life becomes complete madness, so I soak up every second beforehand with my kids [4-year-old Skyler Morrison and 1-year-old Kaius Jagger]. That, and I try to get as much sleep as possible.

What do you like and dislike about the show season?
I'm presenting my collection and I will attend some shows as well, so it's nonstop. I love the excitement of it all, but on the same note, it's completely exhausting!

What city do you look forward to the most: New York, London, Milan or Paris?
There's something about the energy of New York that I love.

What are your inspirations for the new season?
I am endlessly inspired by the glamorous lives of women in the '60s and '70s. That era had such a wide range of iconic styles that I love to channel. I'm constantly seeking new ways to modernize the classics and reinterpret them for today's woman.

What trend do you think will become bigger?
Women want to invest in timeless pieces, and I think that will continue to be a big trend for fall.

RACHEL ZOE
ALL IMAGES PROVIDED

Zoe's survival kit

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Reviews

GETTY IMAGES

BCBG MAX AZRIA

BCBG's city girl embraces her inner Joni Mitchell for fall with some crafty layering. Models came down the runway in silky bohemian frocks and embroidered kaftans made winter-appropriate thanks to plush,cozy turtlenecks, textured statement coats and buttery over-the knee boots. There's a lesson to be learned from this show — we're headed out to stock up on turtlenecks now.

Trends: Repurposed summer dresses, turtlenecks, winter white

Instaworthy: The show's opening white dress with fringe and leather lace-up stitching, or the funnel-neck sweater cape, yes please!

PROVIDED

REBECCA TAYLOR

It's the '70s show on fall runways so far, and Rebecca Taylor's take on the decade includes sexy A-line minis, a disco-ready metallic pleated skirt and floral high-waist trousers. But what really had us swooning was the outerwear, including a baby blue car coat with shearling trim and leopard faux-fur topper — chic and cruelty free. We totally dig it.

Trends: A-line skirts, high-waist pants,

Instaworthy: That faux-fur leopard coat is timeless.

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Letters to the editor

Neutrality doesn't mean equality

RE: "Net doesn't pay for itself" (Metro, Feb. 10) Net neutrality means everyone pays the same market price. You pay more for more use, so the providers are NOT hurt. Allowing insiders and large players to manipulate is what disrupts the market. It reduces access for most. That access is needed to promote innovation. Favoring insiders promotes monopoly, not innovation. Adam Smith defined a free market as one that is free from manipulation. He warned that merchants would collude to abuse the market, and that regulation is needed to keep the market free.
HARRY THORN, VIA EMAIL

Let Israel have its say

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu needs to address Congress. Everyone in this country needs to know how close Iran is to going nuclear. We heard President Obama make his case on sanctions. Now let's hear the other side. Congress should hear exactly what the prime minister has to say. What could be more important then a nuclear Iran? This would be a game changer for the U.S. and the Middle East. Israel is our trusted friend and ally. JOHN MCLAUGHLIN, VIA EMAIL

Thursday's answer

THE WAR OF THE ROSES WINS TOO

Opinion

TOM FOREMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN

I am a father of daughters. From the day they were born, I have been madly in love with their every look, gesture, thought, and smile. When they were little I admired their artwork and soccer playing. As they've grown older, I have been dazzled by the adults they are becoming. Along with my wife, they are my Valentines, and I can not imagine life without them.

So I can't know what the family of Kayla Mueller is going through. The death of that young Arizona woman in the hands of ISIS was unthinkable, cruel, and horrendous; and it has clearly ignited a desire for revenge among many Americans.

And yet, I find myself thinking a great deal about what she was attempting.

She was trying to help people in need: Syrians who have lost their towns, their homes, family members, and friends. People who are afraid, wounded, and hopeless.

Debate is underway here in D.C. about what should come next on the military front, and that is proper. As much as we may dislike war, history tells us that sometimes vicious enemies will not cease their inhumanities unless forced. But there is something to be said for the extraordinary power of kindness and love too.

Generosity, sympathy, and a willingness to help others are every bit as woven into the fabric of America as is our ability to do battle.

And those qualities too, as much as F16's, make us stronger in the world. It is, after all, easy for our far-flung enemies to preach hatred against the Americans if all that their people see are drones, and missile attacks. It is harder when they see an American like Kayla Mueller, offering a kind look, an open hand, and help...despite political, religious, ethnic, and national differences.

Enemies undoubtedly cower before America's unsurpassed military might, but on this Valentine's Day, it is good to remember that while weapons win wars, kindness wins people. And the merchants of hatred fear our love too.

CNN=POLITICS

Sudoku: Easy and hard

		9		2	1			
1		4			8			7
5					7		3	
4	8			5		3		
		1		8		2		
		2		1			4	5
	6		1					3
9			8			7		1
			6	4		5		

6	4		9					
	8	7			6		3	
	9					6	5	4
4		2			1			
	5						7	
			6			2		5
1	2	8					4	
	3		7			8	2	
					8		9	3

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Horoscope

Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Think twice before reviving an old idea, friendship or hobby. If you are unsure, take a walk down memory lane and relive a past experience that left you confused.

Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20 Following your heart will lead to a poor choice. Resentment will grow if you try to take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Put your needs first.

Aries | March 21-April 20 Get active. Unless you speak up and take action, no one will know what you want or what you can do. Avoid being overlooked by stepping up.

Taurus | April 21-May 21 The benefits of networking should not be overlooked. Get in touch with well-connected people who can show you the most promising direction. Offer a favor to receive a favor.

Gemini | May 22-June 20 Make a positive impression that accurately portrays what you have to offer. If you embellish the truth, you will ruin your chance to get ahead.

Cancer | June 21-July 22 A romantic evening will intensify an important relationship. Be aggressive, but stick to the rules and regulations on your quest to get ahead.

Leo | July 23-Aug. 22 Spend time with people who challenge you mentally and physically. You will find it impossible to turn down an opportunity to travel. A romantic liaison will heat up.

Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22 A financial deal will reduce your cash flow, but the long-term benefits will be worth your while. A difference of opinion will escalate into a major feud if you don't compromise.

Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22 Shortcuts will end up costing you. A lofty sales pitch will not deliver what it promises. Carefully think your steps through before making a major decision.

Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Follow your heart. Attentiveness to home and family will cement your bond with the people who mean the most to you. Make changes that promote comfort.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You can't run from emotional matters indefinitely. Face the inevitable, and instigate a conversation that will straighten out any misunderstanding you are faced with.

Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You are stronger than you think. Don't be threatened by someone trying to push you into something that you don't want to do.
EUGENIA LAST

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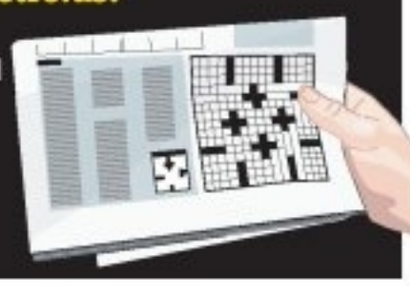

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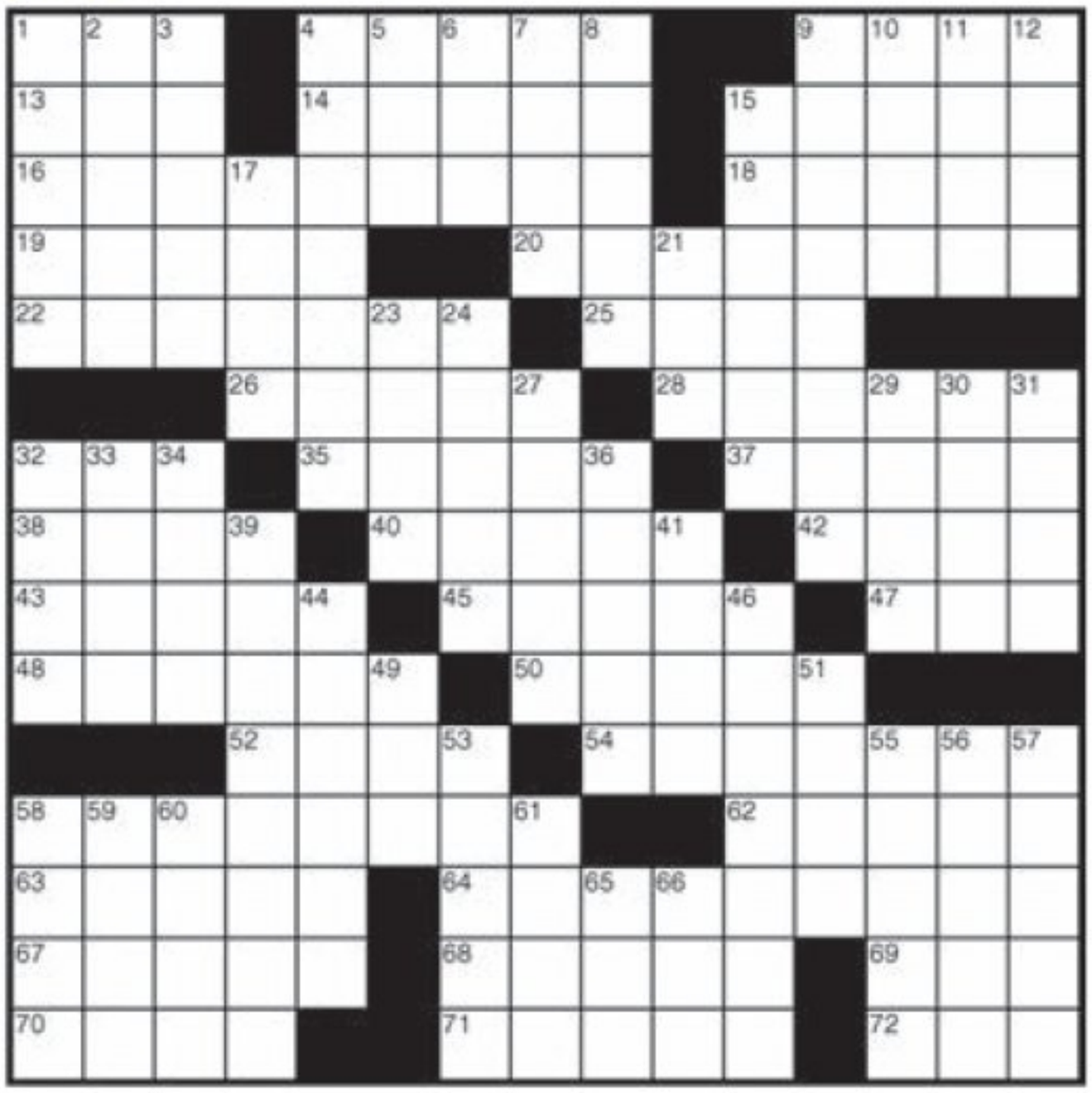

Across

1 Coffee maker
4 River in Russia
9 Swarms upon
13 Half a bray
14 Ties the score
15 Makes a contribution
16 Gear
18 Like a good sentry
19 Where Asia begins
20 Waiters' concerns
22 In a hammock, maybe
25 Easy gait
26 — truly
28 Brawl
32 Pilot's sighting
35 Sister's girl
37 Hidden supply
38 Branch
40 After the deadline
42 This, in Guadalajara
43 Hits dead-center
45 Henry VIII's house
47 Kipling classic
48 Staple, perhaps
50 Waits patiently
52 Hecklers' chorus
54 Aerie hatchlings
58 Tenners
62 Slugger Hank —
63 Braid
64 Try hard to mooch
67 Deserves
68 Ruminated
69 Early veggie
70 Chicken part
71 Blends in
72 Chiding sound

Down

1 Mover's rental (hyph.)
2 Copy
3 India neighbor
4 One interpretation
5 Future fish
6 Tolerated
7 Lions' quarry
8 Selling point
9 Weigh heavily against
10 Pizzeria's must
11 Arctic floater
12 Mach 1 breakers
15 Croc's cousins
17 Foe opposite
21 Playful bark
23 Soir follower
24 Comparatively large in size
27 Cancel a launch
29 Hogshead
30 — spumante
31 Phony
32 Humerus neighbor
33 Edict
34 Skip over
36 Murphy or Rabbitt
39 Telling secrets
41 Jedi knight trainer
44 Lookouts
46 Best wishes
49 Ad — committee
51 Chair-back piece
53 Reads hastily
55 Release magma
56 Gets in shape
57 Creep about
58 Gush forth
59 Jai —
60 Caution
61 Soot
65 Air-pump meas.
66 Donne's "done"

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3

SPORTS

All-Star break

MCW to sit out weekend

The 76ers announced Thursday that Michael Carter-Williams, currently working to return from injury, will not participate alongside Nerlens Noel in the Rising Stars Challenge. He will be replaced by teammate Robert Covington. He'll also skip the skills competition.

Do Eagles need to worry about linebackers?

NFL. Brandon Graham's free agency could wind up having a big effect on the Eagles' defense.

One of the less talked about free-agent conundrums the Eagles will face in coming weeks is the outside linebacker.

The Eagles are more or less set with their starting four – a healthy Mychal Kendricks and DeMeco Ryans will man the inside and join Trent Cole and Connor Barwin outside. Emmanuel Acho is an inside linebacker with a lot of potential, and he'll certainly be in the mix in 2015.

In 2014, the Eagles linebackers had a banner year, helping the defense compile 49 sacks, second most in the NFL behind the Bills.

But there is not much depth at the position, and after the repeated injuries to the Eagles' starters last season (only Cole and Barwin managed to stay healthy all year) it is certainly an area that needs to be improved.

Both Casey Matthews and Brandon Graham are free agents and the Eagles will give much thought to bringing them back – especially Graham.

The one-time first rounder was fourth on the Eagles with 5.5 sacks last year and has shown he can handle more snaps on the field as a member of a defense that is on the field more than any other in the NFL.

By the numbers

28th

The Eagles ranked near the bottom in defensive yards allowed in 2014.

"I think Brandon can be an every-down outside linebacker," Eagles head coach Chip Kelly said at the end of last year. "But you also have to look at what's on your roster. You're not going to sit another guy just because you think this guy should be an every-down [player] because Trent [Cole's] been a very, very productive player for us, so has Connor [Barwin]. So I think it really depends."

Graham is among the best free agent linebackers available. / GETTY IMAGES

Kelly and the Birds reportedly already offered a four-year deal to Graham, but the edge-rusher wants to test the open market, eyeing a deal in the $30 million range.

Another factor regarding linebacking depth, though probably not as big a factor as Eagles fans may have hoped, is last year's first-round pick, Marcus Smith III, who peculiarly was unable to crack the roster and failed to record a single tackle in his rookie season. What's his future?

"If anybody realizes one thing about this place is nothing is handed to you," Kelly said. "You've got to be better than the guys that are playing in front of you if you're going to earn playing time."

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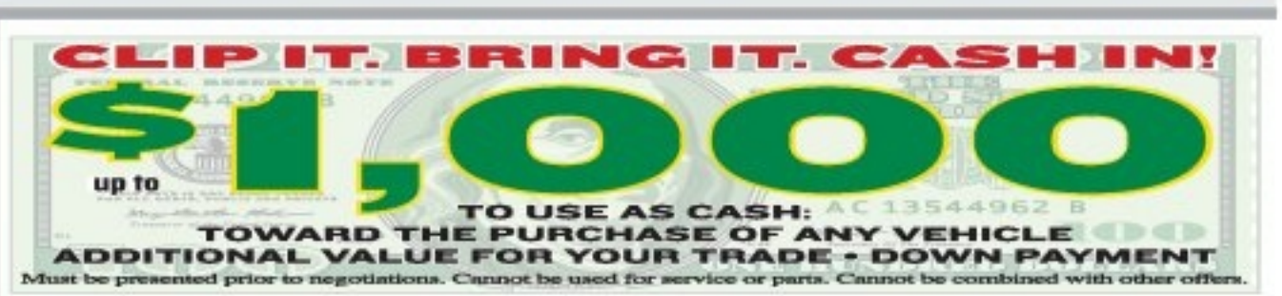
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Grading the 76ers: Guards,

NBA. Here's our attempt to make sense of the youth and struggle on the rebuilding 76ers.

The halfway point of the 2014-15 76ers season technically came after the 41st game.

Since the All-Star break comes this week in New York, let's take a look at the Sixers' roster through 53 games. At 12-41, the record doesn't look very good.

After an 0-17 start, the Sixers have shown quite a bit of promise. Even in a number of their losses, they've competed like crazy until the final buzzer.

That's all you can ask of the youngest collective group of players in NBA history.

"We're going to scrap and compete and work until the very end because that's what we should do and that's what the coaches expect from us," said rookie guard K.J. McDaniels. "We should expect nothing less."

The Sixers don't play again until Feb. 20 when they host the Indiana Pacers at the Wells Fargo Center.

For now, it's time for mid-season grades:

ANDY JASNER
@AndyJasner
sports@metro.us

Tony Wroten

This electrifying young player was leading the team in scoring until he suffered a partially torn ACL. His future isn't immediately known. If he comes back healthy, he can definitely be a major asset. The former first-round draft pick has loads of potential.

Michael Carter-Williams — B

The reigning Rookie of the Year has been stellar at times and maddening at other times. But he continues to improve overall. His shooting must get better. MCW is capable of triple-doubles and he should evolve even more as the roster improves. It's vital to note that he's just in his second season and he's in a challenging situation with a struggling team.

Carter-Williams hopes to be back on the court at full strength after the break. / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Hollis Thompson — C

He missed 11 games with an upper respiratory illness earlier this season. Since returning, he has had some shining moments. He also has had some tough shooting nights. In other words, he's been inconsistent. In the games Thompson has played well, he has been able to knock down shots.

Jerami Grant — B

Another second-round pick that may turn out to be a steal. Grant wasn't known as a shooter at Syracuse, but he has been able to hit some huge 3-pointers. His athleticism on the defensive end has led to fast break opportunities. Grant's shooting will ultimately open up chances to get to the basket. Defensively, he can get stops and block shots. Plenty of potential here.

Tim Frazier — B

Signed to a 10-day contract on Feb. 5, Frazier went on to start two of the next three games. He had a career-high 10 points against the Golden State Warriors but turned the ball over seven times. That's to be expected as he was pressed into immediate action. He played with confidence and that was impressive. If Frazier remains with the team, he has a chance to be a solid backup.

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Robert Covington

This may be the biggest undrafted gem brought in by Sam Hinkie. Covington can flat-out shoot the basketball from distance. And he continues to provide offense each time out. If he misses a few in a row, it doesn't faze him. Covington just may have a role long-term here in Philly.

Luc Mbah a Moute

He comes to play hard every game. He doesn't always put big stats, but that's OK. He rebounds, plays defense and helps guide the young players along. Every team needs a player like this

Malcolm Thomas

Thomas has remained on the bench for the most part. He's receiving some good experience in practice, but it's hard to see what he can add down the road.

JaKarr Sampson

The undrafted guard from St. John's is one of their most passionate players. He's also become of their most improved players. In fact, he has filled in at backup point guard and done an admirable job. He doesn't do anything particularly great. But he's proven to be a decent backup.

K.J. McDaniels

What a pleasant surprise in the second round. McDaniels' offense has come along faster than expected and his work ethic is noticeable virtually every night. Not only can McDaniels throw down a vicious dunk, he's become one of the best defenders on the team.

Jason Richardson

He has been out all season with a knee injury though his return may happen after the All-Star break. He would automatically be the oldest player on this team and could provide valuable leadership. He gets an 'incomplete' for now.

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Patricia Sheridin	3137	Kevin Everette	2228	Henretta T. Johnson	0178
Washington Nagbe	3102	Shirley Abdulai	2188	George Reid	0157
Dawn Blango	3081	Kelly Smith	2171	Cecilia Banto	0123
Kenneth Johnson	3051	James Edward Nesmith Jr	2168	David Edwards	0098
Hayden Lewis	3029	Babatunde Ijaola	1205	Maurice Christian	0036
Jennifer Mckinnell	2289	Jane Johnson	1133	Letitia Thomas	0032

Metro Self Storage

*Public auction at **Metro Self Storage 1354 Hook Road Sharon HILL PA 19079 on February 18, 2015 at 9:30 AM.** Auction with reserve. Metro Self Storage reserves the right to set minimum bids and refuse bids. CASH ONLY. Contents must be removed within 24 hours. Property contained in the following units will be sold to satisfy the owner's lien for rent under PA code 73 P.S. 1901 et. seq.

Binki Mitchell	Unit 6	Tequilla Dean	Unit 342	Edwin T. Bussey	Unit 34
Anthony Savoury	Unit 24	Christina Doe	Unit 389	Edward McClellan	Unit 620
Anthony C. Savoury	Unit 24	Zeoh Flomo	Unit 542	Asata Kromah	Unit 332
Darryl Alexander	Unit 43	Jason Stouch	Unit 631A	Anna Catania	Unit 545
Dante Debose	Unit 116	Colleen Slivar	Unit 660	Tennille Gray	Unit 66
Dennis Sweeting	Unit 134	Edwin Bussey	Unit 34	Patricia Holmes	Unit 223
Brandiapryl Murray	Unit 261	Edwin Travis Bussey	Unit 34	Asata P. Kromah	Unit 332
				Dante J. Debose	Unit 116

Notice of Public Sale

SELF SERVICE STORAGE PHILADELPHIA

In accordance with the Self Storage Lien Law of Pennsylvania 73 P.S. 1901-1917 and to satisfy an operator's lien, the personal property contained in the following units will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for cash on **Wednesday March 4, 2015 at 12:01 p.m.** at Self Service Storage 2000 Hamilton St., Philadelphia, PA. 19130, (215)569-0732.
A $100 refundable deposit is necessary to participate in the bidding.

Jennifer Layden CC-48
Rex Smith 1804
Harlan Girard 2204
Luke Tecson 2156
Karen Bond 3139
David Mainor 2616
Ellen Stern 2012
Gerald Brown 3213
Roger Walsh 2230

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2010 MERCEDES E350 — From $495/Dn.
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Grading the 76ers: Big men have big potential

NBA. Nerlens Noel and the Philly bigs are gradually improving.

Will Noel and Embiid become the next 76ers super stars? /GETTY IMAGES

It's clear the most exciting part of the Sixers roster is their big men, who in the future have the potential to become super stars. But that's if they can get and stay healthy. Here's how they've fared through the All Star Break in 2014-15.

C+ Nerlens Noel
After sitting out all of 2013-14, Noel has had an up-and-down season. But there have been impressive glimpses, especially with his shot-blocking. He needs to get more consistent around the basket on offense, specifically with catching the ball and finishing plays.

B- Henry Sims
Yet another undrafted player, Sims is showing improvement in all facets of his game. He has even stepped behind the 3-point line and knocked down some clutch shots. He looks as if he's getting more confident every game. You can't teach height, so big men effective off the bench are huge in this league.

C Furkan Aldemir
He hasn't logged many minutes thus far in a Sixers uniform. Aldemir has shown a penchant for rebounding and that will be beneficial in the future. He needs to develop his overall offensive game.

? Joel Embiid
He's one of the biggest keys to the Sixers' future, but hasn't played at all while recuperating from injuries. He may not play until 2015-16 and that's not a bad thing. If the Sixers are going to take the next step, they'll need Embiid in the middle of it all. Stay tuned, for now, he gets an incomplete.

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Jakub Voracek has relinquished his NHL scoring lead. / GETTY IMAGES

NHL. Flyers can take advantage of weak spot in schedule

With the Flyers hanging onto a thread to their slim Eastern Conference playoff hopes, a rather cooperative part of the schedule could give the team an opportunity to pick up some ground on the Bruins and Rangers.

Starting with their 7 p.m. game in Columbus against the Blue Jackets Friday, Philly plays four straight games vs. teams toward the bottom of the standings.

They'll alternate games between the second-to-last place Blue Jackets, who travel to Philly Tuesday (7 p.m., on CSN), and the last-place Sabres, whom the Flyers face in Buffalo Sunday (7:30 p.m. on NBCSN) and then Thursday at home (7 p.m. on CSN).

If Philly, which trails the Bruins by eight points for the eighth-seed can sweep these games, there's a good chance they will be able to pick up some ground. Boston plays the Canucks, Flames, Oilers and Blues during that same span. Three of those teams are in the thick of things in the West.

Philly will have to fend off Columbus and Buffalo without goalie Steve Mason, who successfully underwent arthroscopic knee surgery and is expected to miss two or three weeks in recovery. Flyers GM Ron Hextall told reporters the setback is unrelated to the injuries Mason suffered earlier this season.

"This was an acute injury which means it happened when it happened," Hextall said. "[There was no] previous injury, it was an injury that happened at that time. They can tell that when they go into the knee. It was pretty obvious. It's not a big deal what he's going through… it's pretty routine." EVAN MACY

On the mend

Here are updates on a few other injured Flyers.

- Kimmo Timonen skated by himself again Thursday, and hopes to participate in next Tuesday's morning skate.
- Both Braydon Coburn and Michael Raffl skated with the team Thursday, but neither is likely to play Friday in Columbus. Both may return Sunday.

By the numbers

41

Jakub Voracek is still tied for the NHL lead in assists with 41, but is three points behind Patrick Kane's 62 for the overall points lead.

1.303

Claude Giroux leads the entire NHL in faceoff's taken. He's won a respectable 55.9 percent of draws, and leads in even strengh faceoff wins (541).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, at public sale by competitive bidding on **2/26/2015** at **11:00AM** at the Extra Space Storage facility located at: **4433 Wayne Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19144, 215-455-2880.** The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to general household, furniture, boxes, clothes, and appliances.

1a08 Doretha Majette, 1a29 Peter Gordon, 1a38 Terrell Lee Rivers Sr, 1a79 Walter Robinson Jr, 2a117 Milton M Gibbons, 2a127 Arthur Gilliam, 2a132 Tyrone Courtney Jr, 2a177 Kevin E Brown, 2a246 Angelo Lawson, 2a259 & 4a194 Donald Slater, 2a260 Ellen Sanford, 2a263 Derrick Wanamaker, 2a267 Angela Johnson, 2a41 Reelie Witherspoon, 2a44 Ricardo Emanuel, 2a80 Tanya Bland, 2a85 Edward Richards, 2b18 Tianna Green, 2b38 Deborah Rice, 2c41 Johnson A Adedinsewo, 2c48 Troynif Goodwin, 2c53 Kacey Murdock, 2c82 Tiesha Osbourne, 2d101 Mikayla Johnson, 2d104 Basel Zalatimo, 2d126 Tyrone J Coffey, 2d13 Reggie Melton, 2d151 Velma Loadholt, 2d235 Erica Hunter-Hall, 2d236 Walter L Mcghee Jr, 2d46 Thaje Battle, 2d66 Edward Gwyn, 2e31 Cheryl Adams, 3a196 Brenda Compton, 3a200 Shaketia Barnard, 3a21b Maranda Piccirilli, 3a23 Milton Fedd, 3a24 Pamela Konce, 3a275 Shanika Davis, 3a296 Raymond Hatcher, 3a39 Jaumila Harris, 3a70 Lawrence Prather, 3c18 Christopher Kellam, 3c34 Risheda Johnson, 3c73 Ebony Ballard, 4a102 Faruq Ahmad, 4a139 Sherita Nikia Ford, 4a14 Kimberly Clark, 4a149 Jakcai Bolton, 4a164 Rebecca Matthews, 4a176 Beverly Sanders, 4a196 Christina Danielle German, 4a209 Eric DeShields, 4a212 Mumin Jenkins, 4a219 Dawn Parks, 4c10 Cory G Munroe Sr, 4e27 Todd Quinn, 4l20 Darlene V Butler

Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to refuse any bid. Sale is subject to adjournment.

Public Storage NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Self Storage Act Pennsylvania Statues, 73, Chapter 26, 1901 et seq,. A Public Auction Will take Place on **2/19/15** at the below listed Public Storage Facilities for the follow units/Tenants. The Contents of which shall satisfy the Owners Lien. **Public Storage Located At, 1251 Byberry Rd, Philadelphia PA 19116 at 12:00 PM (215) 678-8764**

B225 - Francis, Leo • C302 - Bradley, Derrick • D416 - Cassidy, Michelle
D425 - Clough, Roland • D432 - Peel, David • D467 - Ellis, Simmonie • E510 - Cardona, Luigi
F600 - Ellis, Simmonie • F606 - Well, Gerald • G706 - Stohr, Eric • O1522 - Shonkin, Emily
All Sales Are subject to Cancellation Public Storage Terms, Rules and Regulations will be made prior to the sale. PS Orangeco Inc. 701 Western Ave. Glendale California, 91201. PS ORANGECO, INC

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B0049 - Plenty, Marjorie • C0119 - Shaw, Matthew • C0160 - Mariner, Debra • D0186 - Beard, Rosalyn
D0236 - Mcmenry, Patricia • H0513 - Smallwood, Tiffany • H0540 - Kucowski-Hughes, Denise
J0675 - Hughes, Michael • J0782 - Carter, William • J0789 - Davis, Tomekia • K0886 - Bernstein, Kenneth
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B013 - Hetelson, Michael • B022 - Materazzo Jr, Gaetano • B026 - Harbigh, Timothy • B083 - Dawson, Jennifer
B095 - Clark, Lawrence • B128 - Maldonado, Rebecca • B146 - Dagrossa, Mike • B170 - Andersen, Susan
B184 - Antinory, Pamela • B187 - WARREN, CARL E. • B218 - Shefcyk, Samantha • B293 - Mc Loughlin, April
B352 - Sims 3rd, Gerald • C031 - Johnson, Crystel • C108 - Dawson, Jennifer • C152 - Hernandez, Jonathon
C219 - Branch, Cheryne • C225 - Jackson, Laranda
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LEGAL NOTICES

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5650 Sprague Street; Mandatory Pre-Bid Walk
Through: Mon, 2/23/15 at 3:00pm

Mastery Charter Harrity Elementary
5601 Christian Street; Mandatory Pre-Bid Walk
Through: Tues, 2/24/15 at 3:00pm

Mastery Charter Clymer Elementary
1201 W. Rush Street; Mandatory Pre-Bid Walk
Through: Thurs, 2/26/15 at 9:00am

Mastery Charter Smedley Elementary
1790 Bridge Street; Mandatory Pre-Bid Walk
Through: Tues, 2/24/15 at 9:00am

Mastery Charter Mann Elementary
5376 W. Berks Street; Mandatory Pre-Bid Walk
Through: Wed, 2/25/15 at 3:00pm

Grover Cleveland Mastery Charter Elementary
3701 N. 19th Street; Mandatory Pre-Bid Walk
Through: Thurs, 2/26/15 at 3:00pm

Mastery Charter Schools reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals or to accept the proposal that it finds, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the school/s. All proposals must be submitted directly to the schools no later than 9am on March 20th, 2015. All proposals should be delivered to each respective school to the Assistant Principal of Operations in a sealed envelope, clearly marked "Food Service Management Proposal".

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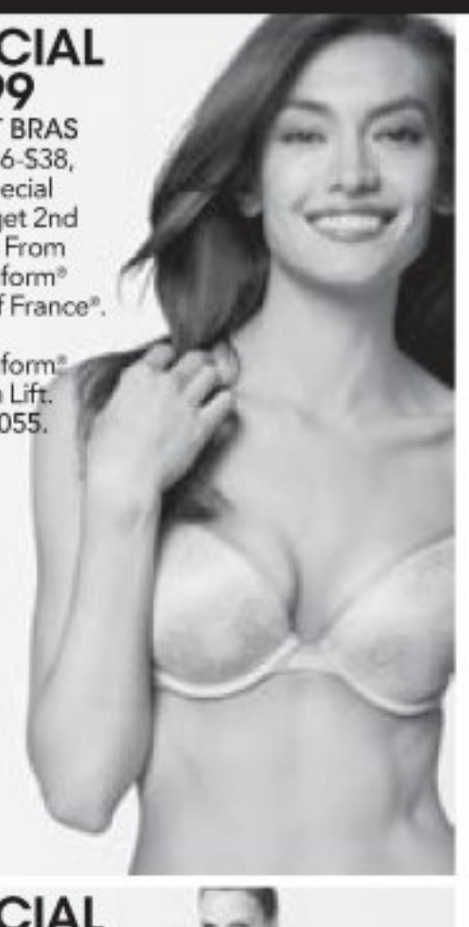

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